

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-9 were present in the application. Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein. Claims 3-9, being withdrawn as directed to non-elected invention, are canceled herein to further the prosecution of this present application. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the non-elected claim subject matter.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. From the rejection, only claim 2 is specifically referred to under §112, first paragraph, so it is believed that the intention was only to reject claim 2 under that paragraph.

The claims are amended herein with attention to the points raised by the Examiner. In view of the amendments, reconsideration is respectfully requested, as it is believed the amendments clarify the claims.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kiselev et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

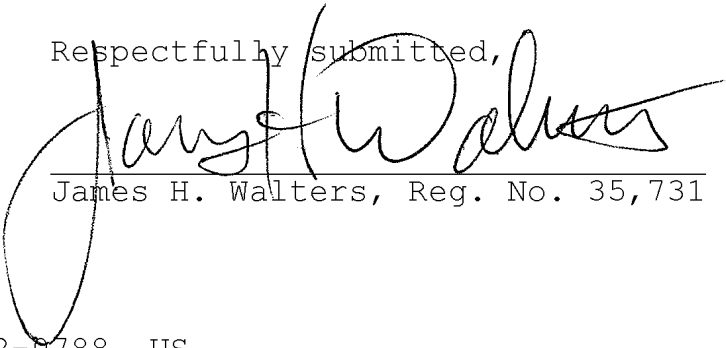
As it is noted in the office action, Kiselev et al do not teach use of alkaline or acid treatment before analysis. Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be obvious to employ applicants' method from the teaching of Kiselev et al, and

that applicants have provided an inventive concept in the claims as recited herein. One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to employ applicants' steps of preparing a first low-concentration aqueous solution of a patient's native plasma or native blood serum and studying said first solution by a laser correlation spectroscopy (LCS) method, and then preparing a second solution, adding alkali to one of the solutions and adding acid to the other, and then studying one of the solutions by LCS method, and, alternatively (in claim 2), studying the other of the solutions. Applicants believe that they have a non-obvious invention with the claimed method of claims 1 and 2.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

It is believed that no further fees are due with this filing or that the required fees are being submitted herewith. However, if additional fees are required to keep the application pending, please charge deposit account 503036. If fee refund is owed, please refund to deposit account 503036.

Respectfully submitted,



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